

The influence of individual birth weight on fattening performance in pigs

Katja Nilsson, Paulina Wahlgren & Nils Lundeheim



Aim of study

To estimate the relationship between birth weight in piglets and slaughter pig performance.



Material & methods

Data from 13 nucleus herds, Nordic Genetics

Purebred Swedish Yorkshire piglets, 2011-2012

Material & methods

Data from 13 nucleus herds, Nordic Genetics
Purebred Swedish Yorkshire piglets, 2011-2012

Individual birth weight: 32 531 records

Field performance – age and backfat at 100 kg: 8 827
records

Analysed in SAS, Proc Mixed

Material & methods

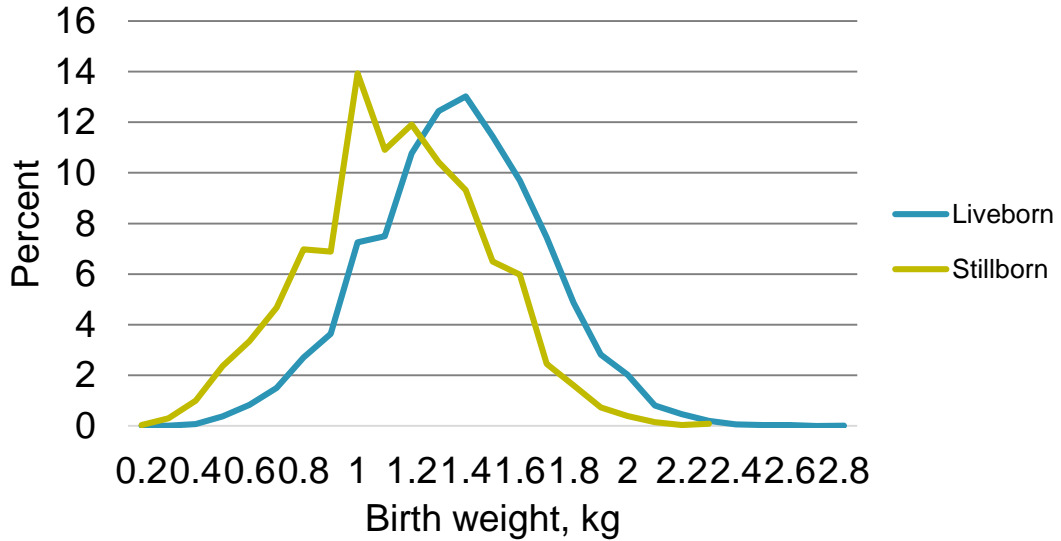
Birth weight =

herd + parity + ym + live + sex + parity*live +
+ total no born + litter + e

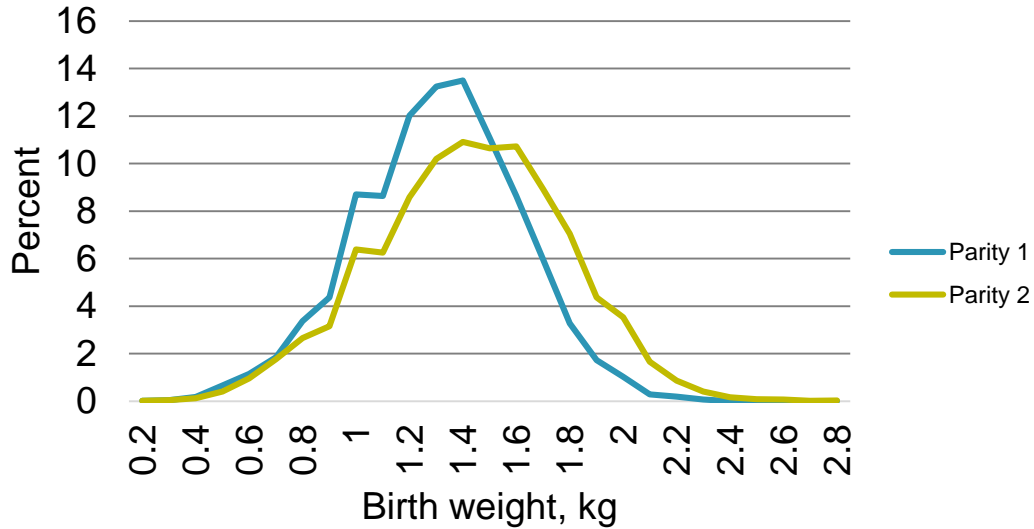
Backfat / Days at 100 kg =

herd + parity + sex + ym + parity*sex + birth weight +
+ total no born + litter + e

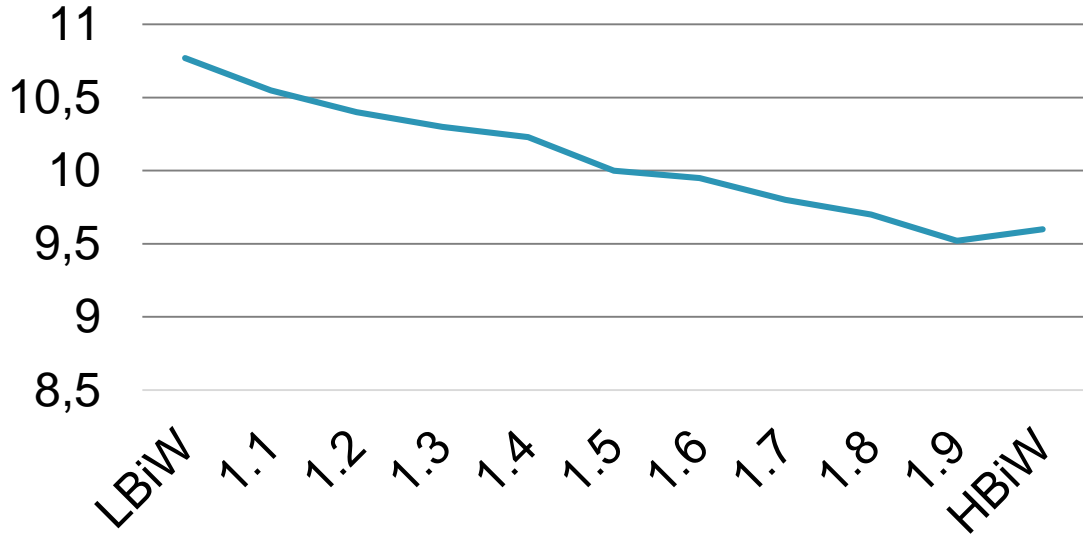
Birth weight



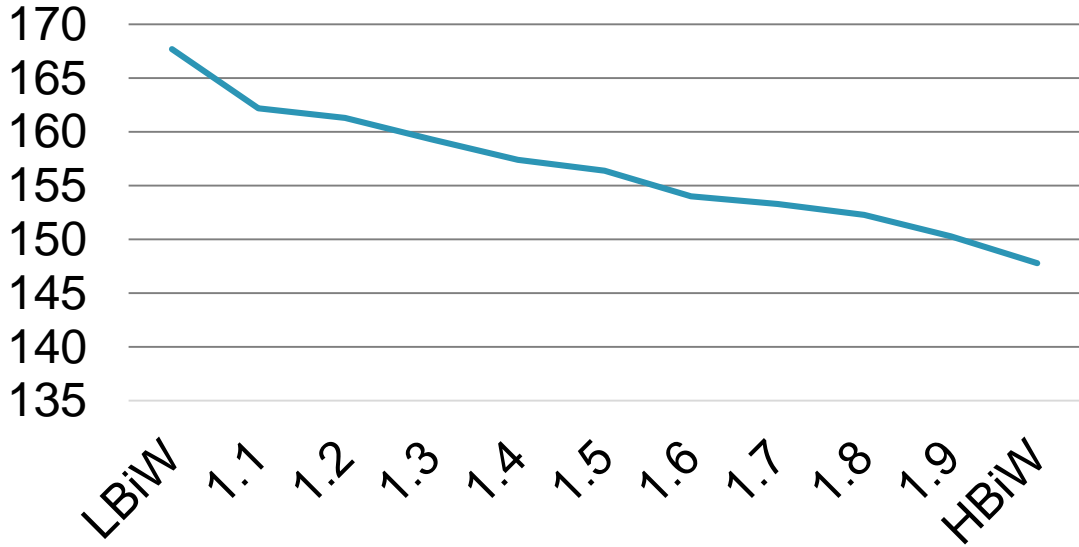
Birth weight



Birth weight vs backfat thickness



Birth weight vs days to 100 kg



Conclusions

Piglets with high birth weight grew faster and were leaner at 100 kg

Confirms large litters – performance conflict

Large variation between farms

